

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A method for location-based image sharing, comprising:

providing a sharing rule defining with which one or more recipients images are
5 shared based on location-identifying information; and

applying location-identifying information associated with an image to the sharing
rule to determine the one or more recipients with which the image should be shared.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

10 making the image available automatically to the determined one or more
recipients.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein making the image available comprises either
automatically sending a copy of the image to the determined one or more recipients by e-
15 mail or automatically sending a link to the image on a Web site to the determined one or
more recipients.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising converting the location-identifying
information into location data using a location database.

20 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the location-identifying information is latitude
and longitude coordinates.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the image is either a digital photo or a digital
25 video.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the sharing rule specifies any one of a proximity to the location-identifying information, a set of location-identifying information or a bounding perimeter of location-identifying information.

5

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the sharing rule comprises a rule that images are only to be shared with the one or more recipients that are on a buddy list.

9. A system for location-based image sharing, comprising:

10 a sharing rule defining with which one or more recipients images are shared based on location-identifying information; and

15 a sharing engine to apply location-identifying information associated with an image to the sharing rule to determine the one or more recipients with which the image should be shared.

10. The system of claim 9, further comprising:

a sending unit to make the image available automatically to the determined one or more recipients.

20

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the sending unit is adapted to either automatically send a copy of the image to the determined one or more recipients by e-mail or automatically send a link to the image on a Web site to the determined one or more recipients.

12. The system of claim 9, wherein the sharing engine is further adapted to convert the location-identifying information into location data using a location database.

13. The system of claim 9 wherein the location-identifying information is latitude
5 and longitude coordinates.

14. The system of claim 9 wherein the image is either a digital photo or digital video.

15. The system of claim 9 wherein the sharing rule specifies any one of a
10 proximity to the location-identifying information, a set of location-identifying information or a bounding perimeter of location-identifying information.

16. The system of claim 9 wherein the sharing rule comprises a rule that images
15 are only to be shared with the one or more recipients that are on a buddy list.

17. A computer program product including computer program code to cause a microprocessor to perform a method for location-based image sharing, the method comprising:

20 providing a sharing rule defining with which one or more recipients images are shared based on location-identifying information; and

applying location-identifying information associated with an image to the sharing rule to determine the one or more recipients with which the image should be shared.

18. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the method further comprises making the image available automatically to the determined one or more recipients.

5 19. The computer program product of claim 18, wherein making the image available comprises either automatically sending a copy of the image to the determined one or more recipients by e-mail or automatically sending a link to the image on a Web site to the determined one or more recipients.

10 20. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the method further comprises converting the location-identifying information into location data using a location database.

15 21. The computer program product of claim 17 wherein the location-identifying information is latitude and longitude coordinates.

22. The computer program product of claim 17 wherein the image is either a digital photo or digital video.

20 23. The computer program product of claim 17 wherein the sharing rule specifies any one of a proximity to the location-identifying information, a set of location-identifying information or a bounding perimeter of location-identifying information.

24. The computer program product of claim 17 wherein the sharing rule comprises a rule that images are only to be shared with the one or more recipients that are on a buddy list.

25. A computer program product including computer program code to cause a microprocessor to perform a method of sharing an image having location-identifying information, the method comprising:

determining a recipient of the image based upon the location-identifying information; and

making the image available to the recipient.

26. The computer program product of claim 25, wherein making the image available comprises either automatically sending a copy of the image to the determined one or more recipients by e-mail or automatically sending a link to the image on a Web site to the determined one or more recipients.

27. The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the method further comprises converting the location-identifying information into location data using a location database.

28. The computer program product of claim 25 wherein the location-identifying information is latitude and longitude coordinates.

29. The computer program product of claim 25 wherein the image is either a digital photo or digital video.

30. The computer program product of claim 25 wherein the sharing rule specifies any one of a proximity to the location-identifying information, a set of location-identifying information or a bounding perimeter of location-identifying information.

TOP SECRET